

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07600 250628Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----046319 250631Z /21
O 250512Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4238

S E C R E T TEHRAN 7600

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS IR IS US
SUBJ: ISRAELI-IRANIAN ARMS CO-PRODUCTION

REF: (A) SECTO 9023, (B) STATE 202125

1. I HAD GEN TOUFANIAN TO DINNER EVENING AUG 24
(NINE HOURS BEFORE REF B WAS SENT) AND TOLD HIM THAT
AMB LEWIS HAD DISCUSSED IRAN-ISRAEL CO-PRODUCTION
SCHEMES WITH DAYAN, WEIZMANN AND ZUSSMAN. FROM THOSE
CONVERSATIONS, WE NOW HAD FAIRLY CLEAR IDEA OF ISRAELI
INTENTIONS. ALL THIS INFORMATION WAS RELAYED TO
SECY IN PEKING WHO HAD SENT ME HIS REACTION.
WHEREUPON, I INFORMED HIM OF SUBSTANCE REF A.

2. TOUFANIAN, IN REPLY, SAID HE HAD BRIEFED SHAH ON OUR
PREVIOUS CONVERSATION THIS SUBJECT IMMEDIATELY PRIOR SHAH'S
DEPARTURE FOR WARSAW. SHAH HAD REQUESTED THAT I DISCUSS
SUBJECT WITH HIM PERSONALLY UPON HIS RETURN. ACCORDINGLY,
TOUFANIAN UNDERTOOK TO RELAY STATEMENT I HAD JUST GIVEN TO
SHAH AND ASKED THAT I SEEK AN AUDIENCE EARLY NEXT WEEK,
AFTER SHAH'S RETURN.

3. TOUFANIAN THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS SOMEWHAT
PERPLEXED BY SECYS MESSAGE AND COULD ONLY CONCLUDE
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THAT ISRAELIS HAD NOT LEVELED WITH US. ACCORDING TO HIM,
JERICHO MISSILE IS ALREADY DEPLOYED WITH ISRAELI FORCES.
HE ESTIMATED THEY MIGHT HAVE "ONLY A COUPLE OF DOZEN,"
BUT, "GIVEN THE RIGHT WARHEAD, THAT'S ALL THEY NEED."

4. HE HAD PERSONALLY WITNESSED A TEST-FIRING OF ONE OF
THE JERICHOES ON A MEDITERRANEAN RANGE AND COULD VOUCHFOR

ITS CHARACTERISTICS AND ACCURACY. SO, HE SAID, COULD THE US NAVY, WHICH WAS AN "UNINVITED WITNESS". HE SAID A HELICOPTER WITH US NAVY MARKINGS WAS CIRCLING THE POINT OF IMPACT DURING THE FIRING AND OBSERVED SPLASHDOWN.

5. TOUFANIAN THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT PRIMARY ISRAELI INTEREST IN CO-PRODUCTION SCHEME, IN HIS OPINION, WAS MONEY THEY WOULD EARN FROM THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH IRAN. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRIMARY IRANIAN INTEREST WAS IN ACQUISITION OF JERICHO, WHICH WAS NEEDED TO MATCH THE IRAQI SCUDS. IRAN HAD VERY LITTLE INTEREST IN THE GABRIEL, EXCEPT FOR THE SEABORNE VERSION, WHICH WAS STILL IN DEVELOPMENT STAGE.

6. TOUFANIAN SAID THAT, IF IRANIANS COULD NOT GET THE JERICHO, THEY WOULD BUY AND "IMPROVED SCUD" FROM THE SOVIETS. HE SAID THEY WERE ACCUMULATING LARGE RUBLE BALANCES FROM THEIR GAS SALES TO THE USSR AND ABOUT THE ONLY THING THE SOVIETS HAD TO SELL WERE WEAPONS. HE WOULD FIND THIS A LESS SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT THAN THE CO-PRODUCTION SCHEME WITH ISRAEL, BECAUSE FRANKLY HE WAS INTERESTED IN HAVING HIS OWN PRODUCTION FACILITIES IN COUNTRY.

7. COMMENT: AS WILL BE APPARENT FROM FOREGOING, RATIONALE PRESENTED IN REF A WILL BE INADEQUATE FOR MY DISCUSSIONS WITH SHAH. NOT ONLY WILL I NEED NEW AND
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REVISED INSTRUCTIONS (INCLUDING WHATEVER MAY BE IMPLICIT IN REF B), BUT I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM AMB LEWIS CONCERNING TOUFANIAN'S STATEMENTS ABOUT JERICHO DEPLOYMENT WITH ISRAELI FORCES. FINALLY, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT ANY DEMARCHES I MAKE TO SHAH SHOULD BE MADE IN PARALLEL TO THE ISRAELIS IN ORDER TO AVOID WHIPS AW EFFECTS.

8. DEPT PLEASE PASS PEKING FOR SECY AND TEL AVIV FOR AMB LEWIS. PLEASE ALSO PROVIDE NEW INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUDIENCE WITH SHAH TO ARRIVE HERE NOT LATER THAN AUG 29.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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